

SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE

SARL NEWS SUNDAY 22 OCTOBER 2006

You are listening to Amateur Radio Station ZS6SRL of the South African Radio League, the National Body for Amateur Radio in South Africa, with a news bulletin that is broadcast every Sunday at 08:15 CAT in Afrikaans and at 08:30 CAT in English. This broadcast can also be heard on Echolink by connecting to ZS6FCS or to www.zs6mrk.org and following the indicated links. This, and previous bulletins, can be downloaded from the web site of the SARL i.e. www.sarl.org.za. You can read or download previous bulletins from there and subscribe to receive future bulletins by email.

This transmission is by Hans, ZS6KR, on 145,725 and 7,066 MHz from Pretoria with a relay on 3 695 kHz. (Other newsreaders please change to suit).

SILENT KEY

It is with sadness that we have to announce that the key of Jan Grey, ZR6BKL became silent due to heart problems, at the age of 44 years on Tuesday the 17th October. To his wife Elsa, other relatives and friends, our sincerest condolences.

(PAUSE).

In the news today:

DO HAVE EXPERIENCE THAT WOULD BE OF VALUE TO GROW AMATEUR RADIO IN SOUTH AFRICA?

NOMINATIONS INVITED FOR SARL AWARDS

CALL SIGN ALLOCATED FOR AMATEUR RADIO PAYLOAD ON SUM-BANDILA SAT

HELP AMSAT-DL TO GET P3E INTO ORBIT

You are listening to ZS6SRL. Stay tuned for more detail on these and other important and interesting news items.

DO HAVE EXPERIENCE THAT WOULD BE OF VALUE TO GROW AMATEUR RADIO IN SOUTH AFRICA?

If you have experience that will help us to grow amateur radio in South Africa, then the South African Radio League would like to hear from you. 15 Nominations are required for the new council, which will be elected at the AGM on 14 April 2007. While most of the existing Council members will be available for re-election, there are still many vacancies to be filled.

Think about what amateur radio has done for you and what you can now do in return to grow amateur radio in South Africa. Serving on the SARL council is not just filling a position and making up the numbers, it is about what you can contribute. The SARL has streamlined its operational procedures. Council meetings are conducted by teleconference at which Councillors discuss their

portfolios and propose action plans. After this coordination process Councilors work in the area of activity in which they have the most experience, feel comfortable in and can meaningfully contribute.

If you have what it takes to grow amateur radio in our country, we invite you to offer your services. Ask a fellow amateur to nominate you or send an Email to Henry Chamberlain, the SARL Secretary, with the details of what you believe you can contribute, his email address is secretary@sarl.org.za.

NOMINATIONS INVITED FOR SARL AWARDS

The SARL Council invites clubs and SARL members to submit nominations for the following SARL awards:

1. Honorary Life Membership - the SARL's highest honour.
2. Willie Wilson Gold Badge:- Awarded to the amateur who gave exceptional and meritorious service to the League.
3. Jack Twine Award:- To recognize qualities such as unselfishness, clean operating and a genuine interest in Amateur Radio and its affairs. This prestigious Award will be made to Amateurs who, in the opinion of their fellow amateurs and the League's Council, exemplify the qualities desirable in a Radio Amateur.
4. Arthur Hemsley 2 metre Trophy:- Awarded to a Radio Amateur for his/her individual achievements with transmissions in the 2 metre amateur band. This award is made for extraordinary performance on EME or modes such as tropospheric propagation. It is not for the longest distance worked but rather for persistence in achieving something special on 2 metres.
5. Barney Joel Trophy:- Awarded to any member of the SARL for the best performance during the year whilst working HF mobile. This award could be made for performance by an individual in rally or other public event communication etc.
6. Joseph White Plaque:- Awarded to any member of the SARL for exceptional achievements in the 432 MHz band during the past year. This is not awarded for the longest distance worked, but for all round achievements.
7. Bert Buckley Six metre Trophy:- Awarded to any radio amateur for his/her individual achievements with transmissions in the six metre amateur band. This award is not for the longest distance worked but for outstanding work or activity on six metres.
8. Icom Excellence Award:- This award is bestowed annually on the amateur who through his/her activity in the Amateur Service has brought international recognition to South Africa by either the achievement of a VHF/UHF long distance record which is internationally recognized by the IARU, or by service to the Republic of South Africa or the SARL in the field of scientific research using the amateur spectrum, or in promoting the

amateur service internationally or as Council may determine from time to time.

9. Radio ZS VHF Trophy: Awarded to the amateur who achieved the longest distance on the 2 metre amateur band during the year.

Nominations must reach the Secretary by no later than 30 November 2006. They must be addressed to The Secretary, SARL and mailed to PO Box 1721, Strubensvallei, 1735 or faxed to 088 011 675 2793.

CALL SIGN ALLOCATED FOR AMATEUR RADIO PAYLOAD ON SUMBANDILA SAT

ICASA has allocated a special call sign to the Amateur Radio Transponder and parrot repeater on Sumbandila Sat. The transponder will sign ZS0SUM. Listeners to SARLNews are reminded of two competitions connected to the Amateur payload. The first one is the writing of a short 15-second message to be broadcast by the voice beacon once in orbit. The second competition is a construction competition for a simple converter to receive the 70 cm downlink. Visit www.amsatsa.org.za for details of the competitions. If your beacon message is selected and you are a learner under 18 years, you will be invited to record the message.

Sumbandila SAT is currently undergoing environmental testing at the Department of Communication sponsored test site in the Western Cape.

The International Satellite Frequency advisory panel has allocated 145,880 MHz as the uplink and 435,350 MHz for the downlink.

HELP AMSAT-DL TO GET P3E INTO ORBIT

AMSAT-DL has created an opportunity for individual participation and support of the successor to AO-10, AO-13 and AO-40, currently under construction. Visit www.p3e-satellite.org to support this technical challenge through the purchase of pixel fields. All together 4 800 fields of 10x10 pixels can display your name, call sign, a personal picture or logo. The donation is E50 (Euro) for each 10x10 pixel, which is equivalent to approximately R475,00. You can donate as many 10X10 pixels as you wish.

In recognition AMSAT DL will prepare a personal certificate for download at the end of the order process. Each donation is automatically entered into a competition in which you can win a visit to the satellite laboratory and to the launch of P3E. The trip to the launch, which includes being a guest of honour at the launch party, promises to be a unique experience. The transaction can be carried out online from www.pe3-satellite.org. Please send a mail with details of your donation to saamsat.org.za so that your call sign can be included in the list of South African donors on the SA AMSAT website.

As a communications satellite, P3E will carry several transponders with bandwidths between 50 and 200 kHz. The emphasis is on the lower VHF/UHF frequencies between 145 and 2 400 MHz. Due to the efficient HELAPS

transmitter technology and a newly developed, software-defined transponder (SDX/STELLA), operation will be possible for small and portable stations. The software technology will also enable flexible digital transmission methods. For microwave experiments, P3E includes additional beacons and transponders. Downlink bands are: 145 MHz, 2 400 MHz, 10,45 GHz, 24 GHz and 47 GHz. Uplink bands are: 435 MHz, 1 268 MHz, 2 450 MHz and 5,67 GHz.

CONTEST NEWS

The annual CQ WW DX SSB Contest will be on the air from 00:00 UTC Saturday 28 October to 24:00 UTC on Sunday 29 October 2006. Contest activity takes place on 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 metres and the exchange is a RS report and CQ Zone. South Africa falls in Zone 38.

The Bloemfontein Defence Amateur Radio Club, with the call sign ZS9X will be active as a multi-operator station. The operators will be John, ZS4S, Barney, ZS4U, Bernie, ZS4TX, Jan, ZS4JAN, Edwin, ZS5BBO and Dennis, ZS4BS, members of the full-time and reserve forces of the SANDF. ZS9X is situated approximately 20 km west of Bloemfontein on a hill overlooking a military training area. The QSL information is available on QRZ.com. Pictures, a website and more information will be added as the station progresses.

SUMMITS ON THE AIR (SOTA) ACTIVITY

A few members of the Secunda Amateur Radio Club Sid, ZS6AYC, Tom, ZS6TMO, Detlev, ZS6BAB, and Lucas, ZS6ACT, intend to activate some of the summits in the Suikerbosrand area, SOTA reference GP-001 and GP-002 on Saturday 28 October. They will be active from $\pm 09:30$ on 145,500, 14,165, and 7,065 MHz. Please give them a contact and earn for yourself also a few points as either a chaser or SWL's.

Information on guidelines, awards and qualifying summits in the RSA can be found at www.sota.org.uk and the RSA specific information at www.qsl.net/sotasa or by contacting Lucas at 084 509 1477.

ZS6PTA FLEA MARKET

The Pretoria amateur radio club will hold its summer flea market on Saturday 11 November 2006. The fleamarket is at the usual place at the South-Campus of the University of Pretoria, at the corner of Lynwood and University streets. The starting time is 08:00.

Everyone is welcome. Phone Almero, ZR6LDP, on (H)(012) 567 3722 or 082 908 3359 if you want to book a table or if you need directions to the flea market.

LOOK OUT FOR RADIO EQUIPMENT LOST WITH HIJACKED CAR

All radio amateurs are kindly requested to be on the lookout for two green Racal TR15 transceivers, a brown 30 A power supply and a TR48 whip antenna complete with gooseneck which were in the boot of a BMW 325 hijacked from

Tony Lee, ZS6TFB/A22TL. Information can be phoned to Tony at 09267 393 2686 or 09267 7130 1994 or emailed to Alee@debswana.bw.

HF PROPAGATION CONDITIONS

Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP, reports that solar activity is expected to be at very low levels. The geomagnetic field is expected to range from quiet to unsettled levels on 28 October. The expected Effective Sun Spot number for the coming week will be less than 5.

20 m and 40 m will provide best opportunities for DX. There is a possibility of 20 m openings towards the East from about 06:00 CAT. From about 16:00, 15 and 20 m may open towards Europe. From 18:00, 15 and 80 m may open to the USA.

For the CW and digital enthusiasts it may also be worth monitoring 10 MHz.

Please visit www.spaceweather.co.za for further information.

DIARY OF EVENTS

25 October - NARC closes till 5 November; 28 October - SAATI AGM; 28 October - SOTA activity from Suikerbosrand peaks; 30 October - Closing date for submission of offers to host the SARL 2007 AGM; 4 November - Division 6 Band Planning Committee meeting at the NARC; 30 November - Closing date for submission of nominations for Council Members, SARL awards and motions for next year's AGM; 11 November - ZS6PTA Flea market.

SARL News depends on clubs and individuals for news items of importance and interest to radio amateurs. The one and only way to ensure that your contribution will reach the SARL News team, is to place it in www.sarl.org.za/newsinbox.asp not later than the Thursday preceding the bulletin date. It will be appreciated if you will do it in both Afrikaans and English.

The SARL also invites all listeners to listen to the program Amateur Radio Mirror International this Sunday morning at 10:00 CAT on 145,750 MHz in the Pretoria area with relays on 7 082, 7 205 and 17 695 kHz. Audio is also streamed on www.zs6mrk.org and on Echolink from ZS6FCS as for this bulletin. A repeat transmission takes place on Mondays at 21:00 on 3 215 kHz. Telkom and Sentech sponsor the ARMI transmissions on the non-amateur frequencies.

You have been listening to a news bulletin by the South African Radio League, which was compiled by George, ZS6NE.

A prosperous week to all, 73.

/EX